

General Practice Residency in Dentistry Program



VA Portland Health Care System

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The VA Portland Health Care System offers a general practice residency in dentistry program approved by the American Dental Association's Commission on Accreditation.

The VA Portland Health Care System <http://www.portland.va.gov/> is located on a hillside within Sam Jackson Park and overlooks the city of Portland and the Cascade Range, including Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens. This area is known as the medical and dental center for the entire state of Oregon and southwestern Washington. In addition to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the University Hospitals and the Oregon Health Sciences University Schools of Dentistry, Medicine, and Nursing are located nearby.

VAPORHCS includes a tertiary-care hospital located near downtown Portland, Oregon and the Vancouver Division, located near downtown Vancouver, Washington. VAPORHCS also operates eight Community Based Outpatient/ Outreach clinics which together serve the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area, NW Oregon, the central Willamette Valley, Central Oregon, and SW Washington State. The Portland campus is a tertiary care, teaching, and research facility classified by VHA as a 1a complexity level facility, which along with the Puget Sound Healthcare system in Seattle acts one of two referral facilities for the entire Northwest Network VISN 20.

Over 400 residents rotate through VAPORHCS each year in the various specialties of medicine and allied health fields. VAPORHCS and its satellite outpatient clinics provide over 218,000 outpatient visits annually. There is an active research program, excellent medical library, and a full-service medical media department.

The VAPORHCS general practice residency is a comprehensive post-graduate dental educational program designed to provide practical clinical and didactic experience. This residency will provide clinical experience in all aspects of general dentistry as practiced in a hospital setting. In addition to refining their skills in clinical dentistry, the dental resident will learn to manage patients with complex medical histories and how to communicate effectively with other hospital professionals in a larger scale hospital setting.

CLINICAL FACILITIES

The main clinic is located in VAPORHCS's hospital building which opened in 1988. This 23-operator clinic includes a fully equipped dental laboratory, as well as special operatories for endodontics, periodontics, implants, oral surgery, maxillofacial prosthodontics, and dental hygiene. Additional facilities include a large classroom, and separate X-ray rooms for digital radiography including a Cone Beam CT. A dental operator is assigned to each resident, so that they can practice dentistry most efficiently. This arrangement provides valuable experience to facilitate the residents' eventual transition to a private practice upon completion of their training.

We also have a dental clinic located at our Vancouver, Washington division of the Portland VAMC. This is a 12 chair clinic where each resident works for approximately 2 months out of the year in a block rotation. This site is located 13 miles north of the main hospital - residents are expected to report to the Vancouver site; no transportation is available for the resident between the two sites.

Additional training and experience is provided at the OHSU Schools of Medicine and Dentistry, where the resident will attend courses and seminars.

VAPORHCS has a comprehensive library containing over 7600 books and 660 journal titles, including a collection of dental journals. The libraries of the medical and dental schools are also available to the GP resident. Residents have access to online resources. The VA has an institutional license w/ Lexi-Comp.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Act as a primary care provider for individuals and groups of patients. This includes: providing emergency and multidisciplinary comprehensive oral health care; providing patient focused care that is coordinated by the general practitioner; directing health promotion and disease prevention activities; and using advanced dental treatment modalities.
2. Plan and provide multidisciplinary oral health care for a wide variety of patients including patients with special needs.
3. Manage the delivery of oral health care by applying concepts of patient and practice management and quality improvement that are responsive to a dynamic health care environment.
4. Function effectively within the hospital and other health care environments.
5. Function effectively within interdisciplinary health care teams.
6. Apply scientific principles to learning and oral health care. This includes using critical thinking, evidence or outcomes-based clinical decision-making, and technology-based information retrieval systems.
7. Utilize the values of professional ethics, lifelong learning, patient centered care, adaptability, and acceptance of cultural diversity in professional practice.
8. Understand the oral health needs of communities and engage in community service.



RESIDENCY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Clinical Dentistry Disciplines

1. Restorative Dentistry

Clinical work in this specialty provides the resident with varied experiences to improve his/her proficiency in operative procedures. This includes experience in composite/amalgam restorations, crown and bridge, and implant restorations. Lectures and demonstrations by the staff members on special techniques are presented throughout the year.

2. Oral Surgery

The resident will spend considerable time in oral surgery under the supervision of our oral surgeon and full-time attending staff. Residents will perform extractions and be trained in surgical procedures in the dental clinic and the hospital operating rooms. Other than routine extractions, oral surgery performed and/or observed will include removal of impacted teeth, tori removal, osseous and soft tissue surgery, biopsies, and implant surgical placement. Training in IV sedation will be provided including a didactic course as well as practical experience with the oral surgeon. Residents will also perform a limited number of oral surgery cases in the operating room.

3. Prosthodontics

The resident has the opportunity to spend plentiful time in this specialty. The program is particularly strong in this field, as there are a great number of prosthodontic cases available. The resident experiences all phases in the fabrication of full dentures, partial dentures, crowns, bridges, immediate dentures, and special prostheses for patients who have undergone surgical removal of tumors of the oral cavity and face. Implant experience will be provided for treatment planning, work-up of cases, implant restorations, and limited but available experience in implant surgery.

4. Periodontics

Diagnosis, etiology and rationale of periodontal treatment are presented. The importance of follow-up home care and professional maintenance is stressed. Specific periodontal treatment is presented by lecture, demonstration and supervised treatment. Residents will be trained in periodontal surgical techniques by our staff periodontists. Experience in both emergency cases and management of chronic periodontal disease is available. Implant treatment planning will also be discussed with the periodontal staff providers who place implants.

5. Endodontics

The staff supervise this specialty. Both the theory and techniques of conventional and surgical endodontics are presented. Training in use of rotary system, lateral condensation, and use of apex locator. A microscope is also available for use.

6. Geriatric Dentistry/Extended Care

An integral part of the resident's 2-month Vancouver rotation will be working with an extended care population consisting of a 120-bed nursing home, an adult day care program (about 63 active patients), a Rehabilitation Program (20 in-patient beds), a Chemical Addiction Rehabilitation Service (30 beds), a newly opened Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Program (15 beds) and a facility for patients awaiting liver transplants. Dental Service also serves as a consultant for the home care program, and the Community Nursing Home program; both based in Vancouver. Upon completion of the extended-care rotation, we expect residents to demonstrate increased competency in patient assessment (medical and dental), interdisciplinary communication skills, patient transfer techniques, and planning and dental treatment of these complex patients.

The clinical program is oriented toward a general practice schedule in that fixed periods of time are not spent within each specialty area. Rather, treatment is provided as in private practice so that each day is varied and residents are able to control their own appointment schedules. It is a flexible program where residents may pursue individual interests while completing required assignments in various fields of dentistry.

OFF-SERVICE ROTATIONS

1. Anesthesiology

One hundred (100) hours are devoted to an anesthesiology rotation in the VAMC operating rooms. Residents will experience starting IV's, intubation, and monitoring patients during general anesthesia. Resident will also help perform pre-op assessments with guidance from anesthesiology staff.

2. Emergency Medicine Rotation

This 40-hour block assignment to the VAMC Emergency Department provides clinical experience to enable the resident to evaluate and manage systemic emergencies, especially those that may occur in the dental office.

3. Liver Transplant

This 40-hour block assignment provides clinical experience in risk assessment, history and physicals, admission, discharge and care of inpatients and outpatients pre and post transplant.

4. Community Service

Dental residents will be involved in providing dental education and screenings for the Veterans in possible VA Stand Down services which take place in different locations at different years. In addition, during Cancer Awareness Week in April, dental residents will participate with Oregon Health Sciences University in providing Head and Neck Screening exams to the community.

Didactic Program

1. History and Physical Evaluation Course

The resident will receive hands-on training in conducting physical exams geared towards working patients up for sedation. The resident also gets follow-up practical experience by performing physical examinations on selected inpatients through their hospital rotations.

2. Moderate Parenteral Sedation Course

Course offered by the Oregon Academy of General Dentistry aimed at providing a comprehensive foundation for how to administer intravenous sedation. Topics range from pharmacology to venipuncture technique.

3. Advanced Cardiac Life Support

Successful completion of this course will result in certification in ACLS which is required for performing IV sedations.

4. Literature Review

Residents abstract and report on classic and current literature dealing with assigned topics. Staff dentists run sessions on a variety of dental topics

5. Hospital Dentistry Seminar

Residents will prepare presentations on various pertinent medical topics as they affect the oral structures and dentistry.

6. Implant Board

Staff restorative dentists, implant surgeons, and residents meet monthly to discuss implant cases in order to approve patients for implant surgery. Discussions will involve the medical, restorative, and surgical facets of treatment planning implant cases.

7. Continuing Education Courses

Residents will have the chance to attend the annual session of the Oregon Dental Association held each spring. This will allow residents not only to attend a variety of courses but also allow networking with local dentists in the area.

8. Treatment Planning Seminar

This seminar is aimed to provide advice and guidance on complex treatment plans that residents encounter. Prosthodontists and general dentists will be available to consult different approaches to treatment plans.

Various lectures from attending providers will be given throughout the year on topics such as bisphosphonate therapy, hospital protocols, and dental trauma. Our periodontist will give a series of lectures on periodontal topics and suturing. Lastly, several consultants will also provide instruction, such as representatives from Straumann and practice management firms.

Dental Faculty:

Tim Bishop, DDS (UCSF)	GPR Program Director
Laurissa Champion, DMD (OHSU / OHSU)	Staff Periodontist
Thomas Clark, DMD (OHSU)	Fee-Basis Dentist
Albert Fu, DDS (Pacific)	Assistant Chief
Kirk Gardner, DDS (UMKC / MC Georgia / Pittsburgh)	Staff Maxillofacial Prosthodontist
Carolyn Harakal, DDS (Maryland / Portland VA)	Staff Prosthodontist
Arti Khanna, DDS (Maryland)	Staff Dentist
Kevin Larsen, DMD (OHSU)	Fee-Basis Dentist
Rebecca Lenox, DDS (Kentucky / U. Tennessee)	Staff Periodontist
Craig Ling, DDS (Creighton / Portland VA)	Chief, Prosthodontist
Trang Pham, DDS (UCLA / OHSU)	Staff Periodontist
Kathleen Rock, DMD (OHSU)	Staff Dentist
Octavia Swanson, DDS (UW)	Staff Dentist
Nels Walther, DMD (OHSU)	Staff Dentist
Theodore Weesner, DDS (Minnesota / UT San Antonio)	Staff Periodontist
Craig Wong, DMD (OHSU / E. Orange NJ VAMC)	Staff Oral Surgeon

DUTY AND LEAVE

Appointment as a resident is for one year starting July 1st. The resident normally works in the dental clinic or is on duty elsewhere in the hospital from 8:00AM to 4:30PM each weekday. Pagers are assigned to residents and there will be a rotating duty roster amongst the five residents for a period of two weeks covering call outside of normal clinic hours.

Fifteen days of annual leave (vacation) is granted per year at the convenience of the Dental Service.

The current stipend for residents is approximately \$56,000. Other benefits include: medical insurance, dental insurance, 10 federal holidays, scrubs, and free parking.

Residents are expected to treat veteran patients in an ethical and compassionate manner. They must also relate well and respectfully to fellow workers, allied health care professionals, and the general public. Residents are expected to have a full-time commitment to the program during their residency year. This in turn means on-time attendance for all scheduled seminars and classes while also devoting time beyond regular clinic hours to address other duties such as medical record documentation and preparation for presentations and patient care.

A certificate is awarded by the Department of Veterans Affairs upon satisfactory completion of all program requirements.

Application Information

Residents must meet the following requirements:

- Be citizens of the United States
- Must be a student in good standing or a graduate of a United States dental school which has been approved by the American Dental Association council on Dental Education
- Have passed the National Board Examination - Part 1.
- Acquire a Postdoctoral Dental Match Program Code.

All qualified candidates will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, politics, marital status, non-disqualifying or mental handicap, age or membership or non-membership in a labor organization.

Our Dental Service is participating in the American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service, (ADEA PASS).

To Apply for This Residency, Complete the Following:

- Complete an official application through the Postdoctoral Application Support Service: ADEA PASS website: <http://www.adea.org/PASSapp/>
- Register in the Match Program: www.natmatch.com/dentres/index.htm
- The following material must be received prior to October 15th of the year prior to a July appointment to be considered.
 - Complete an application form (VA Form 10-2850b).
 - Ensure at least 3 letters of recommendation are submitted (PASS or directly to the program)
 - Curriculum Vitae (PASS or directly to the program)

All supplemental materials should be sent to:

Portland VA Health Care System
Dental Service P-3-Dent
ATTN: Dental GPR Director
3710 SW U.S. Veterans Hospital Road
Portland, Oregon 97239

Phone: (503) 220-8262 x54384
Fax: (503) 220-3442
E-mail VHAPOR-DentalGPRProgram@va.gov

Interviews:

Interviews will be arranged by invitation from the Program Director, once all of your application materials have been received. These interviews are normally scheduled from late November through early January.